215458

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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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ENTERED Office of Proceedings

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DEC 30 2005

Part of Public Record Phone: (312) 252-1500 Fax: (312) 252-2400 www.fletcher-sippel.com

DEC 30 2005 PREJEIVED

December 29, 2005

Mr. Vernon A. Williams Secretary Surface Transportation Board 1925 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re:

Environmental Report, Historic Report and Required Certifications for Docket No. AB-31 (Sub-No. 40X), Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated — Notice of Exemption for Abandonment in Genesee County, Michigan

Dear Secretary Williams:

Grand Trunk Railroad Western Incorporated intends on filing a Notice of Exemption for the above-referenced proposed abandonment any time on or after January 18, 2006. Enclosed for the above-referenced Abandonment Exemption are the following, which are required by 49 C.F.R. Part 1105:

- 1. An original and ten copies of the Environmental/Historic Report
- 2. An original and ten copies of the transmittal letter that accompanied the reports, and
- 3. An original and ten copies of a certificate demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.

Please stamp and return the duplicate copy of this letter to my attention to indicate that you received the items listed. As shown in the Environmental Report, the Michigan DEQ concluded that the proposed abandonment is outside a coastal area, so Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated concludes the proposed abandonment does not need a Coastal Zone Management Plan Consistency Review.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Attorney

Docket No. AB-31 (Sub-No. 40X)

GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILROAD INCORPORATED

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR ABANDONMENT IN GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

To: Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board (STB)
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on December 29, 2005, copies of the Environmental Report and Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated intends to file its Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than January 18, 2006. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on September 12, 2005, in the *Flint Journal*, a newspaper of general circulation in Genesee County, Michigan. The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 29th day of December, 2005.

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Attorney for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

ATTACHMENT A

Ms. Gloria J. Jeff Director Michigan Department of Transportation 425 Ottawa P.O. Box 30050 Lansing, MI 48909 Mr. Richard Hammel Chairman Genesee County Board of Commissioners 1101 Beach Street Room 312 Flint, MI 48502

Mr. John Bricker
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
3001 Coolidge Road
Suite 250
East Lansing, MI 48823

Coastal Management Program
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Land and Water Management Division
Attention: Chris Antieau
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909

Mr. Russell J. Harding Director Michigan Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 30473 Lansing, MI 48909 Mr. Kenneth A. Westlake Chief, NEPA Implementation Section US EPA, Region 5 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Mail Code B-19J Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Ms. Rebecca Humphries
Director
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, MI 48909

Mr. Craig Czarnecki Field Supervisor U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101 East Lansing, MI 48823

Mr. Gary R. Mannesto Chief, Regulatory Office U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District P. O. Box 1027 Detroit, MI 48231

Chief, Spatial Reference System Division National Geodetic Survey Nat'l. Oceanic & Atmospheric Adm. 1315 East West Highway, Room 8813 Silver Spring, MD 20910 State Historic Preservation Officer Dept. of History, Arts and Libraries Attention: Brian Grennell 702 W. Kalamazoo St Lansing, MI 48909 Mayor Donald Williamson Mayor Flint, Michigan 1101 S. Saginaw Street Flint, MI 48502

Charter Township of Flint Attn. Linda Barber 1490 S. Dye Road Flint, MI 48532 D. Thomas Ross
Assistant Director, Recreation and Conservation
National Park Service
Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Org. Code 2220
Washington, DC 20240

Michigan no longer has a dedicated State Clearinghouse

GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILROAD INCORPORATED gives notice that on or after October 17, 2005, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments, permitting the abandonment of a 2.2 mile line of railroad between milepost 265.3 and milepost 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan, which line traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 48503, 48507 and 48532. The proceeding will be docketed as AB-31 (Sub-No. 40X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the SEA, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 565-1545.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street NW, Washington, IDC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicant's representative. [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Commission's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (202) 565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative: Michael J. Barron, Jr., (708) 332-3954 at 17641 S. Ashland Avenue, Homewood, IL 60430.

BEFORE THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO. AB-31 (SUB-NO. 40X)

GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RAILROAD INCORPORATED
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION -IN GENESEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") submits this

Environmental/Historic Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of 49

C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8. Supporting correspondence and certifications are attached.

It is the conclusion of this Report that the proposed abandonment, if implemented, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)

1. Proposed Action and Alternatives. GTW seeks to abandon its line of railroad, referred to herein as the "Flint Old Main," extending from milepost 265.3 near Linden Road to milepost 267.5 near Corunna Road in Flint, Michigan. The Flint Old Main is situated in Genesee County, Michigan and extends a total distance of approximately 2.2 miles.

Prior to September, 2000, GTW used the Flint Old Main solely to provide service to the General Motors Corporation ("GM") Delphi West gas tank plant (Plant #10) within the former Chevrolet Complex in Flint. Traffic was outbound manufactured gas tanks.

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Prior to September, 2000, GTW used the Flint Old Main solely to provide service to the General Motors Corporation ("GM") Delphi West gas tank plant (Flant #10) within the former Chevrolet Complex in Flint. Traffic was outbound manufactured gas tanks.

After September, 2000, that traffic was handled by a truck-rail transfer at Venture

Automotive near GTW's Corunna Yard within the proposed abandonment limits. Once
this change happened, GTW abandoned the track immediately to the east of the current
proposed abandonment limits (See Docket No. AB-31 (Sub-No. 39X), Grand Trunk

Western Railroad Incorporated - Abandonment Exemption - in Genesee County,

Michigan. STB served July 16, 2001). GM closed the Delphi West gas tank plant, and
as a consequence the last shipment from Venture Automotive occurred on February 26,
2003. There have been no rail shipments of any kind on the Flint Old Main since that
time, and no reasonable possibility for the development of new rail traffic.

Following abandonment, GTW intends to salvage rail, ties and track materials from the Flint Old Main. The railbed, subgrade and bridges of the Flint Old Main will remain in place and not be disturbed. GTW believes that state or local parties may be interested in potential trails use of the Flint Old Main right-of-way.

No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered. The only alternative is retention of the Flint Old Main in its current, unused state, which would have no environmental impact.

A map showing the location of the Flint Old Main is attached herein as Appendix A.

2. <u>Transportation System</u>. GTW does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be affected by the proposed abandonment. No rail service is currently provided on the Flint Old Main. Thus, no traffic will be diverted to other transportation systems or modes as a result of the proposed abandonment. Alternative rail service will continue to be available from GTW and CSX

Transportation, Inc. at Flint. There is no overhead traffic on the Flint Old Main, and no passenger trains are operated over the line

Abandonment of the Flint Old Main will allow a permanent closure of four atgrade rail-highway crossings, shown on the list below:

Milepost	<u>Name</u>	DOT Number	Warning Devices
265.35	Linden Road	283 742 Y	Cantilevers with flashing lights
265.55	Lennon Road	283 743 F	Cantilevers with flashing lights
265.90	Dutcher Road	905 271 H	Cantilevers with flashing lights
266.95	Utley Road	283 747 H	None

In addition, GTW will remove a spur track east of the abandonment limit which will also result in elimination of another grade crossing as follows:

267.54 Corunna Road 283 748 P Cantilevers with flashing lights

GTW has contacted and requested comments from the City of Flint and the Michigan

Department of Transportation. See correspondence attached herein as Appendices B and

C. The Michigan Department of Transportation said that there were no environmental impacts in the project area, and that if there was no earth disturbance there would be no impact from the abandonment.

3. Land Use.

- (i) GTW does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans, but has contacted and requested comments from Genesee County,

 Michigan and the National Geodetic Survey. See correspondence attached herein as

 Appendix D.
 - (ii) The Flint Old Main is located entirely within developed municipal

areas of Flint, Michigan. The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has confirmed that the proposed abandonment will not have an adverse impact on any prime agricultural lands. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix E.

- (iii) The Flint Old Main does not lie within a designated Coastal Zone Management Area and, accordingly, the proposed abandonment will not affect any land or water uses in such an area or result in any coastal impacts. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Land and Water Management Division, has confirmed that the Flint Old Main is located outside of Michigan's coastal management boundary and that abandonment is consistent with the Michigan Coastal Management Program. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix F.
- (iv) GTW is not aware of any alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905 for which the right-of-way of the Flint Old Main would be suitable. As indicated above, however, GTW believes that interest may exist for use of the Flint Old Main right-of-way as a recreational trail.

4. Energy.

- (i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities move on the Flint Old Main, and GTW foresees little or no possibility that such on-line traffic would develop in the future.
- (ii) The movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities will not be adversely affected by this abandonment. No such traffic has been handled on the Flint

Old Main for many years (if ever), and GTW foresees little or no possibility that any online recyclable commodity traffic would develop in the future.

(iii) Not applicable. Abandonment of the Flint Old Main will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads per year or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year to motor carriers.

5. Air.

- (i) Not applicable. Abandonment will not result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100% or eight trains per day on any segment of rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100%, or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles per day on any road segment.
- (ii) Not applicable. Abandonment of the Flint Old Main will not result in traffic increases which exceed the thresholds specified in 49 C.F.R. §1105.7(e)(5)(ii)(A), (B) or (C).
- (iii) Not applicable. No freight traffic has been handled on the Flint Old Main since February 26, 2003. Accordingly, no shipments of ozone depleting materials will be diverted as a result of this abandonment.
- 6. Noise. Not applicable. As indicated above, none of the thresholds identified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i) will be exceeded as a result of the abandonment.

7. Safety.

(i) The proposed action will have no adverse effect upon public health or safety. Abandonment of the Flint Old Main will allow a total of 5 rail/highway grade crossings within a metropolitan area to be eliminated. During any salvage operations on the Flint Old Main, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety.

(ii) Not applicable. To GTW's knowledge no hazardous commodities were ever handled on the Flint Old Main. No traffic of any kind has been handled on the Flint Old Main since February 26, 2003. Accordingly, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.

8. <u>Biological Resources</u>.

- (i) GTW does not believe that any endangered or threatened species are present in the area or would be adversely affected. Salvage operations will be handled within the right-of-way using existing access routes, and the subgrade and bridges of the Flint Old Main will not be removed or altered in connection with the abandonment. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources concluded that there are no known occurrences of federal or state listed endangered, threatened or otherwise significant species, natural plant communities or natural features in the proposed abandonment area. See correspondence attached as Appendix G. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service indicated that the proposed abandonment is within the breeding range of the Indiana bat, but that the bats are unlikely to be affected. No other federally listed species are in the vicinity. See correspondence attached as Appendix H.
- (ii) The Flint Old Main does not pass through or adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected.
- 9. <u>Water</u>. Any water quality effects of the proposed abandonment should be minimal. The Flint Old Main does not pass over any waterways. GTW does not intend to alter the contour of the roadbed underlying the Flint Old Main in connection with the proposed abandonment. GTW likewise does not anticipate discharge of any materials

into navigable waters that would require permits under Sections 402 and 404 of the Clean Water Act.

The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality indicated there are wetlands near the Flint Old Main where it crosses Linden Road. Any activities involving wetlands would require departmental permits. Given GTW's intentions for the line after abandonment, it foresees no adverse impact on wetlands nor a need to get permits. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix I.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Charter Township of Flint also provided comments. Much of their commentary directs GTW to communicate with other agencies, which GTW has done. The EPA was also concerned about disposition of the Flint Old Main. Again, GTW has no intention of changing the underlying contours of the roadbed, and believes the Flint Old Main could be suitable as a trail. GTW will sell the track material to a salvage contractor, which will typically sort the ties into relay, landscape or scrap grades and the track into relay, reroll or scrap grades. GTW will also cooperate with local road authorities in removing crossings. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix J and K. GTW also requested comments from the Army Corps of Engineers. No response has been received, but given GTW's intentions, GTW foresees no need for Corps permits. See correspondence attached herein as Appendix L. As I indicated earlier, the Michigan Department of Transportation's Environmental Section does not see any impacts from the abandonment if there is no earth disturbance.

10. <u>Proposed Mitigation</u>. As no adverse impact is anticipated, GTW does not propose any mitigation activities.

HISTORIC REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(d)

- 1. Map. A map of the Flint Old Main is attached hereto as Appendix A.
- 2. <u>Description of Line</u>. The line to be abandoned begins in Corunna Yard at milepost 267.5 in Flint (near Corunna Road) and extends in a generally southwesterly direction a distance of approximately 2.2 miles to milepost 265.3 near Linden Road in Flint. The area has a generally flat topography and is an older urban area in character.

The width of the Flint Old Main right-of-way is mainly 66 feet through the western and central portions of the line. But east of I-75, the width of the right-of-way expands to accommodate the yard tracks of the Old Corunna Yard.

- 3. Photographs. Attached as Appendix M are copies of photographs of two bridge structures on the Flint Old Main. These are the only structures located on the Flint Old Main. They are both less than fifty years old. Color photographs have been provided to the State Historic Preservation Officer ("SHPO") within the Michigan Department of History, Art and Libraries.
- 4. <u>Information on Structures</u>. Information regarding the two structures on the Flint Old Main which are less than 50 years old, older is as follows.

Milepost	Name	Length	<u>Year</u>	<u>Type</u>
266.68	RR bridge over Graham Road	84"5	1960	Wide flange beam
266.87	RR bridge over I-75/US 23	120"	1958	Ballast deck semi-through plate girder bridge

No structure appears to be of historic value or significance. GTW has no current plans to remove or alter these structures in connection with the proposed abandonment.

- 5. <u>History of Operations</u>. The Flint Old Main was constructed in 1877 by the Chicago and Northeastern Railroad Company, a GTW predecessor. It formed part of a through route between Chicago, Illinois and Port Huron, Michigan, with the latter point being a gateway for Canadian traffic. In the 1950's a relocation project moved GTW's main line through Flint to an alignment further south, and the former main line was severed east of milepost 269.98. In an earlier abandonment, GTW abandoned east of milepost 267.5 (AB-31 (Sub-No. 39X) The Flint Old Main was retained to serve GM's Chevrolet Complex in Flint. Operations within that manufacturing complex gradually dwindled, and the final rail movement on the Flint Old Main occurred on February 26, 2003. No operations or maintenance are currently conducted on the Flint Old Main, and thus no changes are anticipated as a result of this abandonment.
- 6. <u>Engineering Documents</u>. GTW will disclose any document, or drawings of the bridges on the Flint Old Main that might be useful in documenting those structures.
- 7. <u>Historic Criteria</u>. Based on readily available information in its possession, GTW believes that no site or structure listed in or meeting the criteria for listing in the Natural Register of Historic Places is located on the Flint Old Main or will be affected by the abandonment. The bridges over Graham Road and I-75/US 23 are the only structures on the line and both are less than fifty years old. Neither are rare in character, style of composition or otherwise of historic significance. GTW also believes that no culturally significant locations, archaeological sites or unique land forms will be affected by the abandonment. The State Historic Preservation Officer within the Michigan Department of History, Art & Libraries has been given notice of the abandonment. See correspondence attached as Appendix N.

8. <u>Ground Disturbances</u>. Based on readily available information in its possession, GTW believes that substantial subsurface ground disturbance occurred when the Flint Old Main was constructed nearly 125 years ago. GTW is unaware of any other environmental conditions that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources.

Access to the line is generally good.

Dated: December 29, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Attorney for the Grand Trunk Western

Railroad Incorporated

Fletcher & Sippel

29 N. Wacker Drive, Suite 920

Chicago, IL 60606-2832 Telephone: 312-252-1511

FAX: 312-252-2400



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U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Donald Williamson, Mayor Flint, Michigan 1101 S. Saginaw Street Flint, MI 48502

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

Dear Mayor Williamson:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- Water quality;
- 2. Designated wetlands;
- 100-year-old flood plains;
- 4. Endangered or threatened species:
- Critical habitats;
- Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation:
- 10. Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

APPENDIX B

MMW / hm/ Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

www.cn.ca

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Ms. Gloria J. Jeff Director Michigan Department of Transportation 425 Ottawa P.O. Box 30050 Lansing, MI 48909

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonmen: in Genesee

County, Michigan

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APPENDIX C

Michael J. Barron Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM GOVERNOR TION GLORIA J. JEFF DIRECTOR

December 9, 2005

LANSING

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr., Counsel Grand Trunk Western Railroad, Inc. 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

Gloria Jeff, Director of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), asked that I respond to your letter advising MDOT of the proposed Grand Trunk Western Railroad, Inc. (GTW) abandonment in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan.

Specifically you asked that MDOT assist GTW in identifying any potential effects of the proposed abandonment of an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan.

The Department's Environmental Section has reviewed the proposed abandonment area for possible impacts to the following factors: archaeological, cultural, agricultural, section 4(f) public recreational lands, social, water quality, contamination, wetlands, streams, floodplains, coastal zone, and endangered species. Environmental databases and quadrangle maps indicate no known long term environmental impacts to the project area.

It was noted that there are public parks located adjacent to the property. Any right-of-way, grading permits, or easements needed from the parks will be a Section 4(f) impact and the appropriate documentation will be required. It was also noted that there are several adjacent wetlands which will require a Michigan Department of Environmental Quality permit if they are to be impacted. Furthermore, there may be contaminated soils from lead paint at I-75 and LUST sites near Corunna Road. No impact is expected from the abandonment but if earth disturbance is contemplated in the future, further investigation may be warranted.

Again, thank you for letting us know GTW's position. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me or Melvin Williams, Administrator, Freight Services and Safety Division, at (517) 373-6494.

Rob Abent, Director

Multi-Modal Transportation Services Bureau

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Mr. Richard Hammel
Chairman
Genesee County Board of Commissioners
1101 Beach Street
Room 312
Flint, MI 48502

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonmen: in Genesee

County, Michigan

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- 1. Water quality;
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- 100-year-old flood plains;
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- Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- 7. National or state parks or forests;
- Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We vould appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

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APPENDIX D

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

U.S. Legal Affairs



Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Chief, Spatial Reference System Division National Geodetic Survey Nat'l. Oceanic & Atmospheric Adm. 1315 East West Highway, Room 8813 Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re:

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Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated



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T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Mr. John Bricker State Conservationist USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 3001 Coolidge Road Suite 250 East Lansing, Mi 48823

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Bricker:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- Water quality;
- Designated wetlands;
- 3. 100-year-old flood plains;
- Endangered or threatened species;
- Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- 7. National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

MWW / hw/ Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

Encl.

APPENDIX E



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michigan State Office

3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250 East Lansing, MI 48823-6321 (P) 517-324-5270 (F) 517-324-5171 www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov September 21, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Inc.

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

RE: Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Barron:

We have reviewed your proposal to abandon a stretch of railroad in Genesee County from milepost 265.3 to milepost 267.5. This stretch is principally in the City of Flint, Michigan, known as the Flint Old Main Line. It is anticipated that this abandonment will not have a negative impact on prime farmland.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your proposal.

Sincerely,

JOHN A. BRICKER

State Conservationist

cc:

Christina Slater, District Conservationist, NRCS, Flint, Michigan Albert Jones, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Flint, Michigan



U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron

Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue T 708-332-Homewood, Illinois 60430 F 708-332-

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Coastal Management Program
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
Land and Water Management Division
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

To Whom It May Concern:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

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- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We vould appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Muld Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

APPENDIX F



STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY LANSING



September 30, 2005

Mr. Michael Barron CN 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

SUBJECT: Federal Consistency Determination, Rail Abandonment, City of Flint,

Genesee County, Michigan

Staff of the Land and Water Management Division, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has reviewed this phase of the project for consistency with Michigan's Coastal Management Program (MCMP), as required by Section 307 of the Coastal Zone Management Act, PL 92-583, as amended (CZMA). Thank you for providing the opportunity to review this proposed activity.

Our review indicates that this project is located outside of Michigan's coastal management boundary. No adverse impacts to coastal resources are anticipated from this proposed activity as described in the information you forwarded to our office. Therefore, this phase of the project is consistent with MCMP.

This consistency determination does not waive the need for permits that may be required under other federal, state, or local statutes. Please call me if you have any questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

Chris Antieau

MAR

Great Lakes Shorelands Section Land and Water Management Division

517-373-3894

cc: Ms. Catherine Ballard, DEQ



www.cn.ca

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Ms. Rebecca Humphries Director Michigan Department of Natural Resources P.O. Box 30028 Lansing, MI 48909

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonmen; in Genesee County, Michigan

Dear Ms. Humphries:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- 1. Water quality;
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- 3. 100-year-old flood plains;
- 4. Endangered or threatened species;
- 5. Critical habitats;
- Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges; 6.
- 7. National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

APPENDIX G



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES LANSING

REBECCA A. HUMPHRIES
DIRECTOR

September 22, 2005

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr. CN 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

SUBJECT: Proposed Railroad Abandonment

Thank you for your letter of September 1, 2005, to Director Rebecca A. Humphries. Director Humphries has asked me to respond to your request for an environmental review. This review will address threatened and endangered species and critical habitats only. The other issues you list in your letter will need to be addressed by other departments or organizations.

The location of the proposed project was checked against known localities for rare species and unique natural features, which are recorded in a statewide database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of information on Michigan's endangered, threatened and special concern species, exemplary natural communities and other unique natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features at a site. The absence of records may mean that a site has not been surveyed. Records may not always be up-to-date. In some cases, the only way to obtain a definitive statement on the presence of rare species is to have a competent biologist perform a field survey.

Under Act 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, ...fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an Endangered Species Permit from the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. Responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species is not limited to the list below. Other species may be present that have not been recorded in the database.

The presence of threatened or endangered species does not preclude activities or development, but may require alterations in the project plan. Special concern species are not protected under endangered species legislation, but recommendations regarding their protection may be provided. Protection of special concern species will help prevent them from declining to the point of being listed as threatened or endangered in the future.

If the project is located on or adjacent to wetlands, lakes, streams, or other regulated resources, additional permits may be required. To obtain more information regarding permits in these areas, please visit the DEQ's website at http://www.michigan.gov/deq. Or you may contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Geological and Land Management Division at 517-241-1515.

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr. Page 2 September 22, 2005

The following is a summary of the results for the project in Genesee County, Sections 21, 22, T7N R6E:

There are no known occurrences of federal- or state-listed endangered, threatened, or otherwise significant species, natural plant communities, or natural features at the location(s) specified.

Thank you for your advance coordination in addressing the protection of Michigan's natural resource heritage. Responses and correspondence can be sent to: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division – Natural Heritage Program, P.O. Box 30180, Lansing, Michigan 48909. If you have further questions, please call me at 517-373-1263.

Sincerely,

Lori G. Sargent

Endangered Species Specialist

Wildlife Division

cc: Director Rebecca A. Humphries, DNR Mr. Dennis Fedewa, Chief Deputy, DNR Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Mr. Craig Czarnecki Field Supervisor U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101 East Lansing, MI 48823

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Czarnecki:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- Water quality:
- Designated wetlands;
- 3. 100-year-old flood plains;
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- 5. Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
- 11. Regional and/or local use plans; and
- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

APPENDIX H



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

East Lansing Field Office (ES) 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101 East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

October 6, 2005

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr. Counsel Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, IL 60430

Re: Endangered Species List Request, Proposed Railroad Abandonment, Flint, Genesee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Barron:

Thank you for your September 1, 2005 request for information regarding federally listed and proposed threatened and endangered species, candidate species, or critical habitat near your proposed project. Your request and this response are made pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Under this project, Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated proposes to abandon approximately 2.2 miles of railroad line, beginning at MP 265.4 and ending at MP 267.5.

Our records indicate that your proposed project is within the breeding range of the endangered Indiana bat (Myotis sodalis). However, based on the nature of your project, it is unlikely that Indiana bats will be affected. No other federally listed species are known to be in your project vicinity. If the project is modified or new information about the project becomes available that indicates listed species or critical habitat may be affected in a manner or to an extent not previously considered, you should reinitiate consultation with this office.

Since endangered species data changes continuously, we recommend you contact this office for an updated species list if more than six months passes prior to commencement of proposed activities. In addition, if the project requires modifications or new information becomes available that indicates the presence of listed species or species proposed for listing, or their critical habitat, you should consult with this office.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) protects endangered and threatened species through Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, P.A. 451. For a preliminary check of your project area for any State protected species, please refer to the MDNR Endangered Species Assessment website located at www.michigan.gov. Click on Online Services, scroll down to Business Online Services and select Endangered Species Assessment. Upon completing the website search, contact the Endangered Species Coordinator of the MDNR at 517/373-3337 for information regarding the protection of threatened and endangered species under State law. State law requires a permit in advance of any work that could potentially damage, destroy, or displace State-listed species.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Please refer any questions to Tameka Dandridge of this office at Tameka_Dandridge@fws.gov or 517/351-8315.

Sincerely.

Jun?

Craig A. Czarnecki

Field Supervisor

cc: MDNR, Wildlife Division, Lansing, MI (Attn: Lori Sargent)



www.cn.ca

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Mr. Russell J. Harding Director Michigan Department of Environmental Quality P.O. Box 30473 Lansing, MI 48909

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Harding:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- 1. Water quality;
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- 3. 100-year-old flood plains;
- Endangered or threatened species;
- 5. Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges;
- 7. National or state parks or forests;
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- Soil and natural resource conservation; 9.
- 10. Agricultural land;
- Regional and/or local use plans; and 11.
- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act. 12.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We vould appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours.

and I had

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

Encl.

APPENDIX I



STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY LANSING DISTRICT OFFICE



September 16, 2005

Michael J. Barron, Jr. Grand Trunk Western Railroad Inc. 17641 South Ashland Ave. Homewood, IL 60430

Dear Mr. Barron

SUBJ: Proposed Abandonment in Genesee Co., Michigan

Please be aware that the National Wetland Inventory Map indicates the presence of wetlands near the Grand Trunk Western Railroad line where it crosses Linden Road and again east of the Dutcher Street crossing. Some of these wetlands may be protected under state law (Part 303, Wetlands Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended). Part 303 prohibits the excavation, filling, and draining of protected wetlands without a permit from this office. The text of Part 303, as well as the pertinent permit applications, is available from this office or at our web site: www.michigan.gov/jointpermit.

Feel free to contact this office if you have further questions regarding this matter.

Christopher Clampitt District representative 517-335-6273



www.cn.ca

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Mr. Kenneth A. Westlake Chief, NEPA Implementation Section US EPA, Region 5 77 W. Jackson Blvd. Mail Code B-19J Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Westlake:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- 1. Water quality;
- Designated wetlands; 2.
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- 4. Endangered or threatened species;
- Critical habitats: 5.
- Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges; 6.
- National or state parks or forests; 7.
- 8. Coastal zone management;
- 9. Soil and natural resource conservation;
- 10. Agricultural land;
- Regional and/or local use plans; and 11.
- The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act. 12.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,

APPENDIX J

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

OCT 0 4 2005

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

B-19J

Michael J. Barron, Jr. Corporate Counsel Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated 17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

RE: Inquiry concerning the Grand Trunk Railroad Incorporated proposed rail line abandonment in Genesee County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Barron:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) received your September 1, 2005 inquiry letter concerning the Grand Trunk Railroad Incorporated proposed 2.2 mile rail line abandonment in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. This letter of comment is provided pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality's NEPA Implementing Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

In response to your questions, we believe stream headwaters, wetland and construction runoff issues would be involved and warrant your contacting the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Permits related to Section 402 and 404 of the Clean Water Act should also be addressed to MDEQ. Considerations of wildlife, habitats and endangered or threatened species should be addressed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Questions regarding soil and natural resource conservation and agricultural lands should be answered to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Resource Conservation Service. Land use planning considerations should be discussed with the Planning and Zoning Office, Development Division of the Flint Department of Transportation. Additional environmental resources can be found at U.S. EPA websites: 1) the Envirofacts Data Warehouse, http://www.epa.gov/enviro and 2) Surf your watershed, http://www.epa.gov/surf.

We specifically request your Surface Transportation Board Report (Report) address several issues of environmental concern. If this short segment of rail line is to be abandoned, what will be done with the land? We understand that a contiguous segment of rail was recently abandoned, posing the probability of future abandonment of additional contiguous segments. These abandonments are connected; cumulative impacts and should appropriately be addressed

in your Report. If rail steel, crossties, electrical and signal housings and other materials are to be removed from this site, recycling or disposal of these materials in non-hazardous waste sites should be addressed. Such removal operations would involve construction and runoff as issues to mitigate, particularly at the wetlands associated with this segment. The several at-grade crossings should be negotiated with the appropriate state, county and local Departments of Transportation, This section of track also bridges over Interstate Route 75. Consideration of this bridge structure's future should be detailed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment during the early stages of this project. We look forward to reviewing the environmental assessment for this project and responses to the above items. Should you have further questions of us, please contact me or Norm West, of my staff, at (312)-353-5692 or by e-mail at west.norman@epa.gov. Please address all future correspondence regarding rail line abandonment to my attention.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Westlake, Chief NEPA Implementation Section

Office of Science, Ecosystems and Communities

Cc: David Navecky

Section of Environmental Analysis Surface Transportation Board

1925 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20423

Charter Township of Flint

1490 S. Dye Road Flint, Michigan 48532

SUPERVISOR Linda R. Barber

TREASURER

Sandra S. Wright

Phone: (810) 732-1350

www.flinttownship.com

Fax: (810) 732-0866

CLERK Kim Courts

TRUSTEES

John R. MacGillivray Douglas Carlton Belenda Parker Tracey Tucker

October 6, 2005

Michael J. Barron, Jr. 17641 S. Ashland Avenue Homewood, IL 60430

Dear Mr. Barron, Jr.;

My name is Linda Barber and I am the duly elected Supervisor of the Charter Township of Flint located at 1490 S. Dye Road, Flint, Genesee County, Michigan, 48532.

I am writing in regards to a notice published in our local paper indicating that Grand Truck Western Railroad Incorporated is giving notice that after October 17, 2005, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments, permitting the abandonment of a 2.2 mile line of railroad between milepost 265.3 and milepost 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan, which line traverses through U.S. Postal Zip Code 48503, 48507 and 48532.

I am inquiring on behalf of the Charter Township of Flint Board of Trustees as to who will be responsible for the removal of the tracks along the aforementioned 2.2-mile line, which is located in part in Flint Township (48532).

If you have any questions, or you would like to speak to me directly, you can call me at (810) 732-1350 Ext. 105.

Thanking you in advance for your prompt response to my question.

Linda R. Barber, Supervisor Charter Township of Flint

Sinderely.

APPENDIX K





Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430

T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

www.cn.ca

September 1, 2005

Mr. Gary R. Mannesto Chief, Regulatory Office U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Detroit District P. O. Box 1027 Detroit, MI 48231

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Mannesto:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee: County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in identifying any potential effects of the proposed action on, among other things, the following:

- Water quality;
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- Critical habitats;
- 6. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges:
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- 12. The need for permits under Sections 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report, which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing the Environmental Report in four weeks.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours.

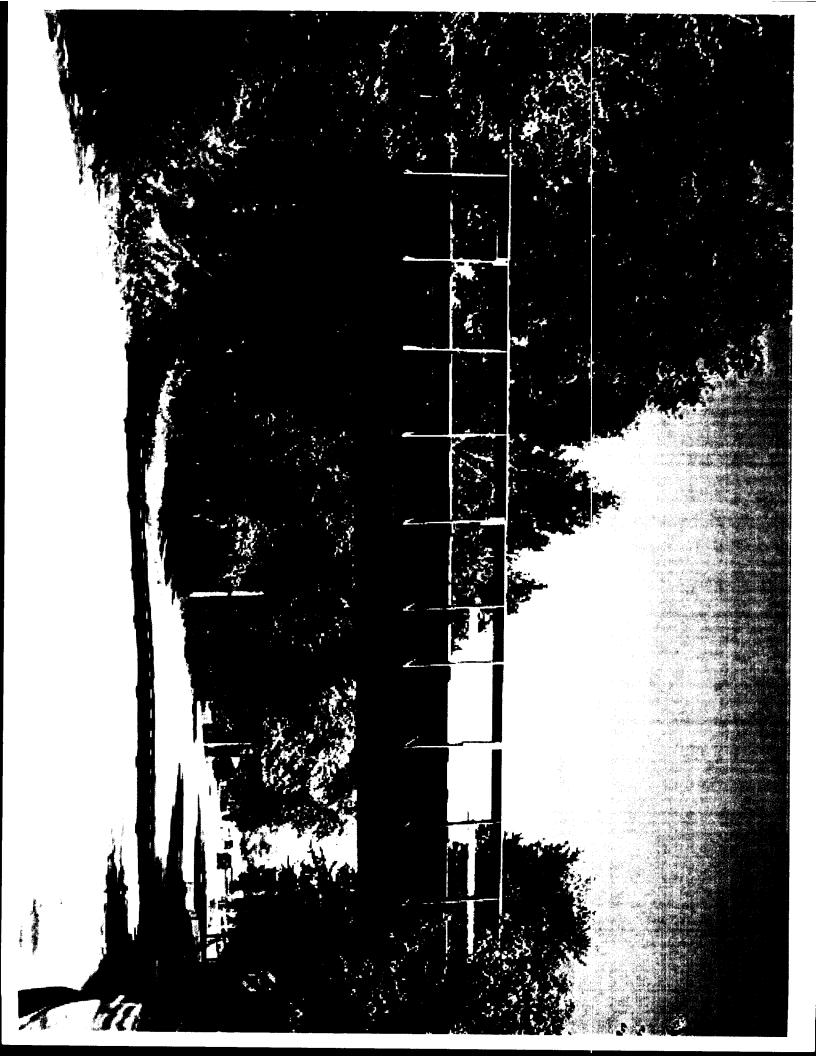
APPENDIX L

Mulw had Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

Encl.







www.cn.ca

U.S. Legal Affairs

Michael J. Barron Counsel

17641 South Ashland Avenue Homewood, Illinois 60430 T 708-332-3954 F 708-332-4361 michael.barron@cn.ca

September 2, 2005

State Historic Preservation Officer Library of Michigan 702 W. Kalamazoo St Lansing, MI 48909

Re:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated Proposed Abandonment in Genesee

County, Michigan

To Whom It May Concern:

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated ("GTW") is planning to file a proposed abandonment with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") for approval to abandon an approximately 2.2 mile line of railroad starting at MP 265.3 and ending at MP 267.5 in Flint, Genesee County, Michigan. For your convenience, we have attached a map for your reference. GTW is advising you of the proposed action so you may assist us in performing a historical review process. Photographs of two bridges within the area are also enclosed.

Thank you for your assistance. Please call me should you have questions.

Very truly yours,

Thickael J. Barron, Jr.

Counsel for Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated

Enc.



JENNIFER GRANHOLM GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES LANSING

DR. WILLIAM ANDERSON DIRECTOR

September 12, 2005

MICHAEL J BARRON JR GRAND TRUNK WESTERN RR INC 17641 SOUTH ASHLAND AVENUE HOMEWOOD IL 60430

Dear Mr. Barron:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received your request for review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Section 106 regulations specify what is required for a Section 106 review [36 CFR § 800.11]. The information that you have sent is incomplete. The SHPO cannot initiate the Section 106 review process until we receive complete project information. We are therefore returning your project for resubmittal.

Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effect of their undertakings on historic properties. It is the responsibility of the federal agency, *not the SHPO*, to fulfill the requirements of Section 106. In some instances, the federal agency may delegate legal responsibility to a state, local, or tribal government. Consultants or designees contracted to prepare information, analyses, or recommendations, are *not* recognized as federally-delegated authorities. For your reference, a complete version of the Section 106 regulations can be found at www.achp.gov/regs.html.

The <u>mandatory</u> application form and instructions for submitting projects for review under Section 106 may be downloaded in MS Word format from our website at www.michigan.gov/sl.po. Please read each requirement carefully in its respective field, and respond in full. In addition, please ensure that future project submissions will utilize the application form. Incomplete applications and projects not submitted on the application forms will be sent back to the applicant without comment.

Once the required information is received in full by the SHPO, we can proceed with the review. The Section 106 process for this project is not complete. If you have any questions, please contact the Environmental Review section of the SHPO at (517) 335-2721 or by e-mail at ER@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Brian G. Grennell

Environmental Review Specialist

for Brian D. Conway

State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure(s)

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive Suite 920 Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR. (312) 252-1511 mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone: (312) 252-1500 Fax: (312) 252-2400 www.fletcher-sippel.com

November 4, 2005

State Historic Preservation Office Environmental Review Office Michigan Historical Center 702 W. Kalamazoo Street P.O. Box 30740 Lansing, MI 48909-8240

Attention: Brian Grennell

Re: Flint Old Main Abandonment

Dear Mr. Grennell:

Attached is an application for a Section 106 Review. Please le me know what other information you might need.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Encl.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE Application for Section 106 Review

SHPO Use Only
IN Received Date / Log In Date / /
OUT Response Date / Log Out Date / / / Sent Date / /
Sent Date
Submit one copy for each project for which review is requested. This application is required. Please type. Application must be complete for review to begin. Incomplete applications will be sent back to the applicant without comment. Sen only the information and attachments requested on this application. Materials submitted for review cannot be returned. Due to limited resources we are unable to accept this application electronically.
I. GENERAL INFORMATION
THIS IS A NEW SUBMITTAL THIS IS MORE INFORMATION RELATING TO ER# Funding Notice Survey MOA or PA Other:
 a. Project Name: AB-31 (Sub-No. 40X) - Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated b. Project Address (if available): N/A - Abandonment Exemption - Genesee County, MI c. Municipal Unit: Flint County: Genesee d. Federal Agency and Contact (If you do not know the federal agency involved in your project please contact the party requiring you to apply for Section 106 review, not the SUDO for this information.
the party requiring you to apply for Section 106 review, not the SHPO, for this information.): STB e. State Agency and Contact (if applicable): N/A f. Consultant or Applicant Contact Information (if applicable): N/A
II. GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITY (INCLUDING EXCAVATION, GRADING, TREE REMOVALS UTILITY INSTALLATION, ETC.)
DOES THIS PROJECT INVOLVE GROUND-DISTURBING ACTIVITY? YES NO (If no, proceed to section II
Exact project location must be submitted on a USGS Quad map (portions, photocopies of portions, and electronic USGS maps are acceptable as long as the location is clearly marked).
 a. USGS Quad Map Name: b. Township: Range: Section: c. Description of width, length and depth of proposed ground disturbing activity: d. Previous land use and disturbances: e. Current land use and conditions: f. Does the landowner know of any archaeological resources found on the property? YES
III. PROJECT WORK DESCRIPTION AND AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS (APE) Note: Every project has an APE.

Grand Trunk Western Railroad Incorporated (GTW) seeks to abandon its line of railroad, referred to herein as the "Flint Old Main," extending from milepost 265.3 near Linden Road to milepost 267.5 near Corunna Road in Flint, Michigan. The Flint Old Main is situated in Genesee County, Michigan and extends a total distance of approximately 2.2 miles. There have been no rail operations of any kind on the Flint Old Main for at least two years. Prior to that, the line was used to provide service to the General Motors Corporation ("GM") Delphi West gas tank plant (Plant #10) within the former Chevrolet Complex in Flint. Traffic was outbound

a. Provide a detailed written description of the project (plans, specifications, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental Assessments (EA), etc. <u>cannot</u> be substituted for the written description): ------

manufactured gas tanks. There are no shippers on the Flint Old Main, and no reasonable possibility for the development of new rail traffic. Following abandonment, GTW intends to salvage rail, ties and track materials from the Flint Old Main. The railbed, subgrade and bridges of the Flint Old Main will remain in place and not be disturbed. GTW believes that state or local parties may be interested in potential trails use of the Flint Old Main right-of-way. No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered. The only alternative is retention of the Flint Old Main in its current, unused state, which would have no environmental impact

- b. Provide a localized map indicating the location of the project; road names must be included and legible.
- c. On the above-mentioned map, identify the APE.
- d. Provide a written description of the APE (physical, visual, auditory, and sociocultural), the steps taken to identify the APE, and the justification for the boundaries chosen. ------

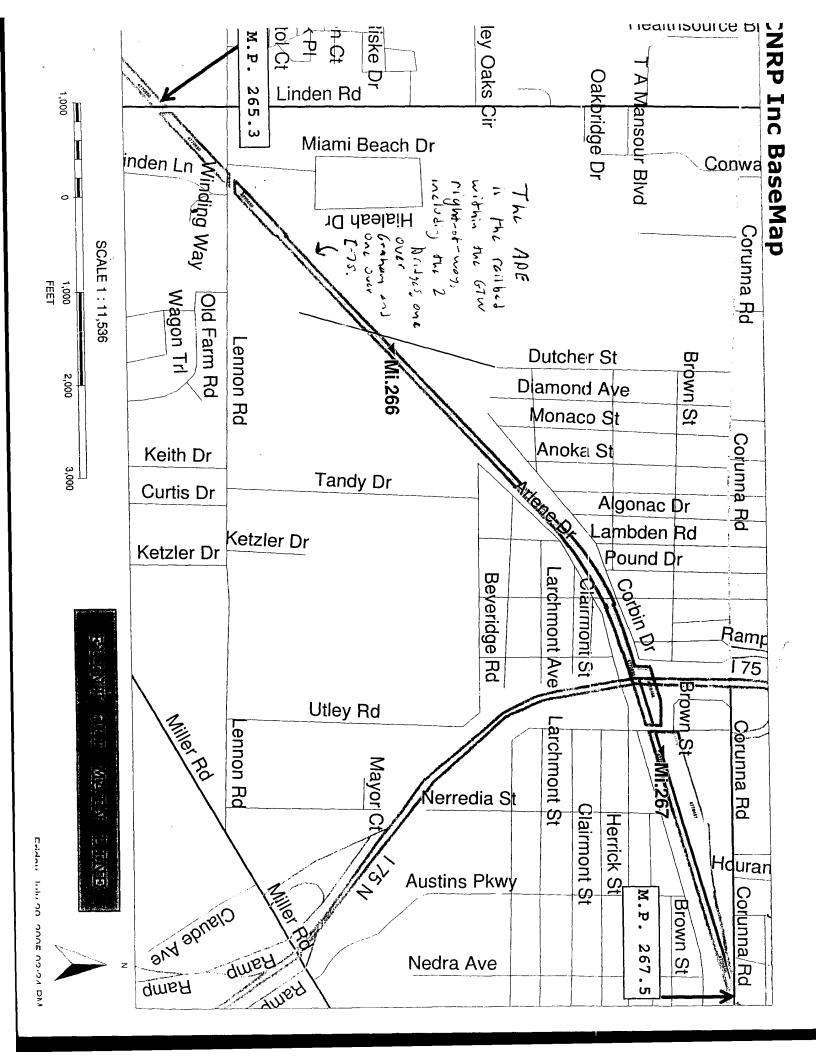
The APE for this project is the actual railbed itself, including two bridges over roadways within the GTW right-of-way. GTW's intention for this project is to simply remove the track and ties from the railbed, and leave the railbed, subgrade and bridges in place. No other work is planned on the GTV/ right-of-way as part of this project

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

	a. b.	List and date <u>all</u> properties 50 years of age or older located in the APE. If the property is located within a National Register eligible, listed or local district it is only necessary to identify the district:
	C.	There are no structures or properties in the APE that are fifty years old or older, and none listed on the National Register. Describe the steps taken to identify whether or not any historic properties exist in the APE and include the level of effort made to carry out such steps:
	d.	The APE consists of the railbed with track and ties and two bridges less than fifty years old. There are no other properties within the APE. One bridge goes over Graham Road at milepost 266.68, and was built in 1960. The other goes over I-75/US-23 at milepost 266.87, and was built in 1958. Based on the information contained in "b", please choose one: Historic Properties Present in the APE No Historic Properties Present in the APE
	e.	Describe the condition, previous disturbance to, and history of any historic properties located in the APE: Not applicable as there are no historic properties.
No	a. b.	V. PHOTOGRAPHS All photographs must be keyed to a localized map, and should be included as an attachment to this application. Provide photographs of the site itself. Provide photographs of all properties 50 years of age or older located in the APE (faxed or photocopied photographs are not acceptable).
		VI. DETERMINATION OF EFFECT
	\boxtimes	No historic properties affected based on [36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)], please provide the basis for this determination.
	No	historic properties are affected because there are no historic properties within the APE
		No Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(b)] on historic properties, explain why the criteria of adverse effect, 36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(1), were found not applicable.
		Adverse Effect [36 CFR § 800.5(d)(2)] on historic properties, explain why the criteria of adverse effect, [36 CFR Part 800.5(a)(1)], were found applicable.

Please print and mail completed form and required information to:
State Historic Preservation Office, Environmental Review Office, Michigan Historical Center, 702
W. Kalamazoo Street, P.O. Box 30740, Lansing, MI 48909-8240

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Milepost

Name

DOT Number

266.68

Graham Road

283 745 U



Milepost Name DOT Number 266.87 I-75 283 746 B